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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T

REPORT NO.

50X1

COUNTRY USSR/Austria

DATE DISTR. 27 July 1955

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Supplemental Soviet Standard Brief No 6 ¹

SOVIET ARMY ALERTS

50X1 [redacted] in Austria, there were four different types of alerts called. Three of these were in the nature of training alerts and were called either by the Battalion CO as a battalion alert, the Company CO as a company alert, or by the Platoon CO as a platoon alert. The other alert was a CGF-wide alert.

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1. Platoon Alerts

50X1 [redacted] a platoon leader could call a practice platoon alert for training purposes, with the permission of his Company CO. This was done in some platoons [redacted] by the platoon CO or at the instigation of the Company CO as a general punishment measure for the platoon involved. [redacted] platoon leader never called an alert for his platoon for any reason.

2. Company Alerts

50X1 [redacted] called an alert for the Signal Company of the 135th Sep Air Warning Battalion at least once a month. The alert order was generally verbal, and Company personnel were notified of the alert by the Company duty soldier.

For each alert one platoon of the company would assume a combat guard deployment around the company area. The remaining company personnel would receive special loading instructions to load the organizational equipment.

Upon being notified of a company alert, which was generally called a half hour before normal reveille, all personnel dressed in their field clothes, picked up their side-arms from the company arms room, donned their field packs and gas masks and reported to their assigned positions. [redacted]

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The company alerts were called off by the Company CO when he was satisfied that every one was prepared to move out. Normally these company alerts lasted about five to eight minutes. After the alert the Company CO generally held a critique for the company to inform every one how everything had gone. [redacted]

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3. Battalion Alerts

50X1 The Battalion CO of the 135th Air Warning Bn generally called the battalion out for an alert every three or four months. However, he called an alert five times in June 1954.

Notification of Battalion alerts came by telephone to each company, the message being conveyed by a secret code word which [redacted] 50X1 These were normally held early in the morning, just before reveille. The Signal Company [redacted] did exactly the same things for a Battalion alert as they did during the company alerts. Alerts were called off by telephone, the code word being "pila" (saw). These alerts generally lasted around 30 minutes.

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During the alerts, battalion staff officers visited each company and reported their findings to the Battalion CO. After each alert, the Battalion CO would then visit each company and hold a critique on it. Critique comments generally covered the length of time for assembly of personnel and the names of personnel who were equipped improperly.

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4. CGF Alerts

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50X1 A CGF alert was called [redacted] in Sep 52 and again in the fall of 1953. There was no CGF alert in 1954. These alerts did not differ in any way from the others held by the unit. [redacted] these were CGF 50X1 alerts because the word was always passed that these were such.

5. General Alert Instructions

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50X1 [redacted] never seen or heard of a written order or prepared instruction sheet pertaining to alerts. All orders concerning alerts were verbal. [redacted] unit drivers received instructions regarding themselves and their vehicles during alerts from their individual platoon leaders and the Company Technical Officer.

50X1 [redacted] drivers had been instructed, during political instruction classes conducted by the Company Zampolit, that in the event of an actual combat alert, the 135th Air Warning Battalion had 1½ hours in which to load and move to a predetermined, further unspecified combat position. They were further instructed that all battalion communication equipment would be mounted on trucks and would leave the area ready for operation. Radio sets would establish contact with the net assigned to each set prior to departure from the unit area.

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Comment 1: [redacted] information on Soviet Army training and maneuvers. This report gives supplemental information on the same brief.

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